

SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 1, line 17, the phrase "the longitudinal axial length" has been changed to --a longitudinal axial length--.

Claim 21, line 23, the phrase "the longitudinal axial length" has been changed to --a longitudinal axial length--.

The above changes were done to provide proper antecedent basis.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 11-20: The prior art did not teach or suggest a fuel injection assembly as claimed by the applicant, specifically a fuel injection assembly comprising a second critical orifice disposed within a second nozzle passage, the second nozzle passage having a second nozzle inlet in communication with the first nozzle passage and a second nozzle outlet, the second nozzle passage having a converging portion adjacent the second nozzle inlet and a diverging portion adjacent the second nozzle outlet, the converging and diverging portions of the second nozzle passage separated by a second critical orifice; valve means for simultaneously controlling the first critical orifice and the inlet to the second nozzle passage, such that at least a portion of the fuel flow passing through the first critical orifice reaches at least sonic velocity as it travels

Art Unit: 3752

through the diverging portion of the first nozzle passage and exits the first nozzle passage, and such that at least a portion of fuel flow passes through the second critical orifice in the second nozzle passage and reaches at least sonic velocity as it travels through the diverging portion of the second nozzle passage and exits the second nozzle passage, together in combination with the other claimed features of applicant's invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEVEN J. GANEY whose telephone number is (571)272-4899. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:00; Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Len Tran can be reached on 571-272-1184. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3752

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Steven J. Ganey/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3752

sjg